

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant appreciates and acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 10 and 11 and the indication that claims 6 and 7 include allowable subject matter. The Examiner, within the statement regarding allowable subject matter, refers to a potential 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection to claims 6 and 7. As this rejection is not mentioned anywhere else in the Office action, Applicant concludes that the Examiner meant only to state that claims 6 and 7 needed to be rewritten in independent form. All claims have also been amended to remove reference numbers.

Claims 1, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by either U.S. 5,362,401 to Whetsel or U.S. 4,639,315 to Fuchs. Alternatively, claims 1, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over either U.S. 5,362,401 to Whetsel or U.S. 4,639,315 to Fuchs alone or in view of U.S. 3,489,679 to Davidson. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 6, considered to include allowable subject matter. Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent claim 1. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either U.S. 5,362,401 to Whetsel or U.S. 4,639,315 to Fuchs in view of either U.S. 1,858,900 to Moore or U.S. 1,796,491 to Sweetland or U.S. 1,796,492 to Sweetland. Claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. As previously stated, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 6, indicated as including allowable subject matter. Thus dependent claims 2-4 are now believed to be allowable as well. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. FRG-16336.

Respectfully submitted,

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